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69. (New) The method of fabricating a semiconductor device in accordance with claim 66, wherein said rapidly heat treating step comprises a step of preparing said light source by arranging a pair of lamps vertically opposed to each other, and carrying said substrate so as to pass between said pair of lamps.

REMARKS

The following remarks are fully and completely responsive to the Office Action dated April 1, 2002. Claims 60-69 are pending in this application with claims 44-59 canceled by the present amendment and claims 60-69 added by the present amendment. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 44-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)(four different rejections). No new matter has been entered. Claims 60-69 are presented for consideration.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 44-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in four different rejections. The cancellation of these claims renders this rejection moot.

New Claims

New claims 60-69 are added to claim the present invention. These claims either recite or depend from a claim that recites either a light source emitting sheet-type annealing light or applying a laser beam in the form of a sheet. These features are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited prior art. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of new claims 60-69.

Conclusion

Applicants' amendments and remarks have clearly overcome the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated April 1, 2002. Specifically, the cancellation of claims 44-59 renders moot the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). New claims 60-69 recite subject matter neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art. Consequently, claims 60-69 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claims 60-69.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney by telephone, if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making reference to Attorney Docket No. 107318-00000.

Respectfully submitted,



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